



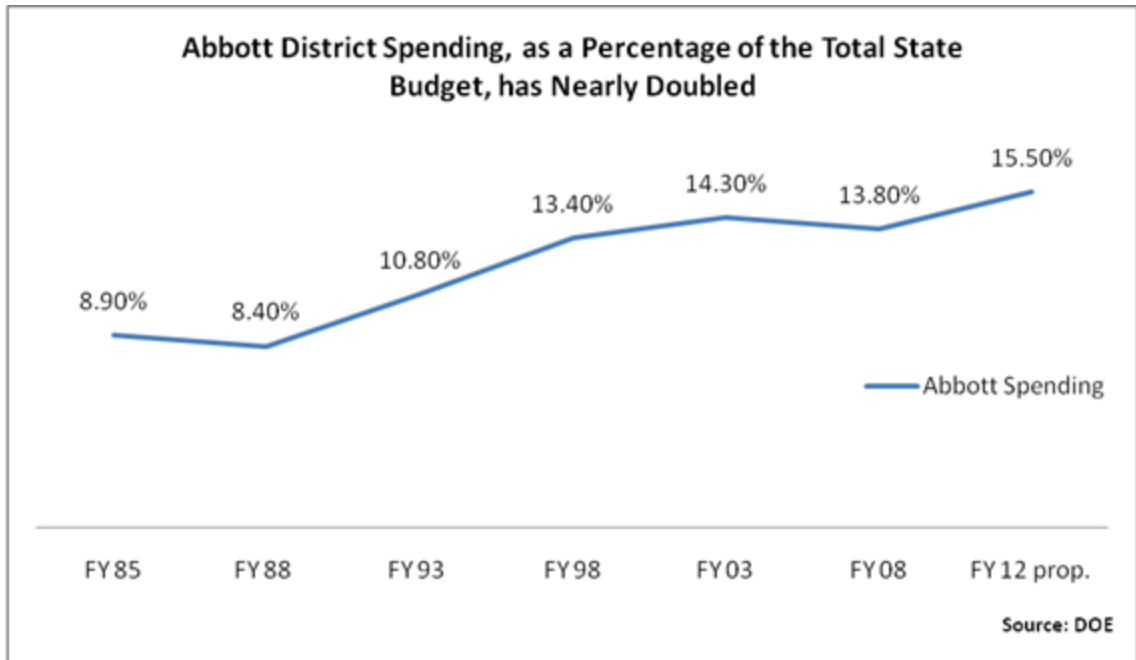
## **The Christie Reform Agenda: Making 2011 the Year of Education Reform**

*Addressing New Jersey's Most Pressing Education Challenges*

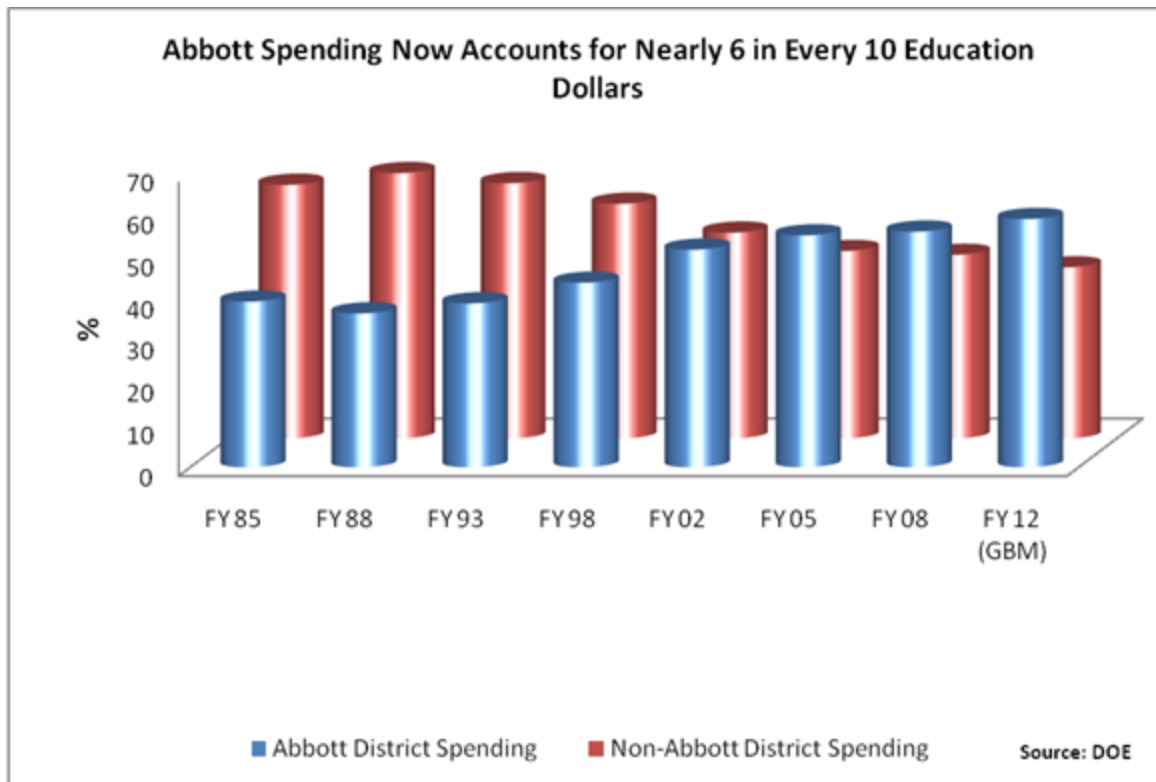
### **New Jersey's Costly Education System Is In Need Of Reform & Accountability...**

- **Including Federal Aid, New Jersey State And Local Governments Spent Approx. \$25 Billion On Education For 2009-2010.** (NJDOE)
  - Total State Aid to Education was \$10.3 Billion for 2009-2010, including Social Security taxes, retiree health care, and other school district expenses borne by the State.
- **Statewide Per Pupil Spending Is The Highest In The Nation At \$17,620.**
  - According to the National Center for Education Statistics, New Jersey spent an average of \$17,620 per pupil for 2008-2009, the latest available data.
- **New Jersey Paid The 4<sup>th</sup> Highest Teacher Salaries In The Nation For '08-'09, 17% Higher Than The National Average.**
  - The average full-time teacher salary in New Jersey was \$63,051 for 2008-2009.
  - The National Estimated Average Teachers Salary was \$53,910 for 2008-2009.
- **The Average Teacher Salary Increased 5.9% In Just Two Years From '07-'08 To '09-'10.**
  - The average full-time teacher salary in New Jersey for 2007-2008 was \$61,478.
  - The average full-time teacher salary in New Jersey for 2009-2010 was \$65,123.

(Sources: NJDOE, NCED)
- **Education Spending Has Increased 343% From 1985 To 2012, With Spending In Abbott Districts Nearly DOUBLING As A Percentage Of The Total State Budget During That Same Period.**
  - State aid to school districts increased from \$1.73 Billion in 1985 to 7.68 Billion in 2012 (proposed).
  - During the same period, spending in the 31 Abbott Districts went from 8.9% to 15.5% of total state budget expenditures in all departments.

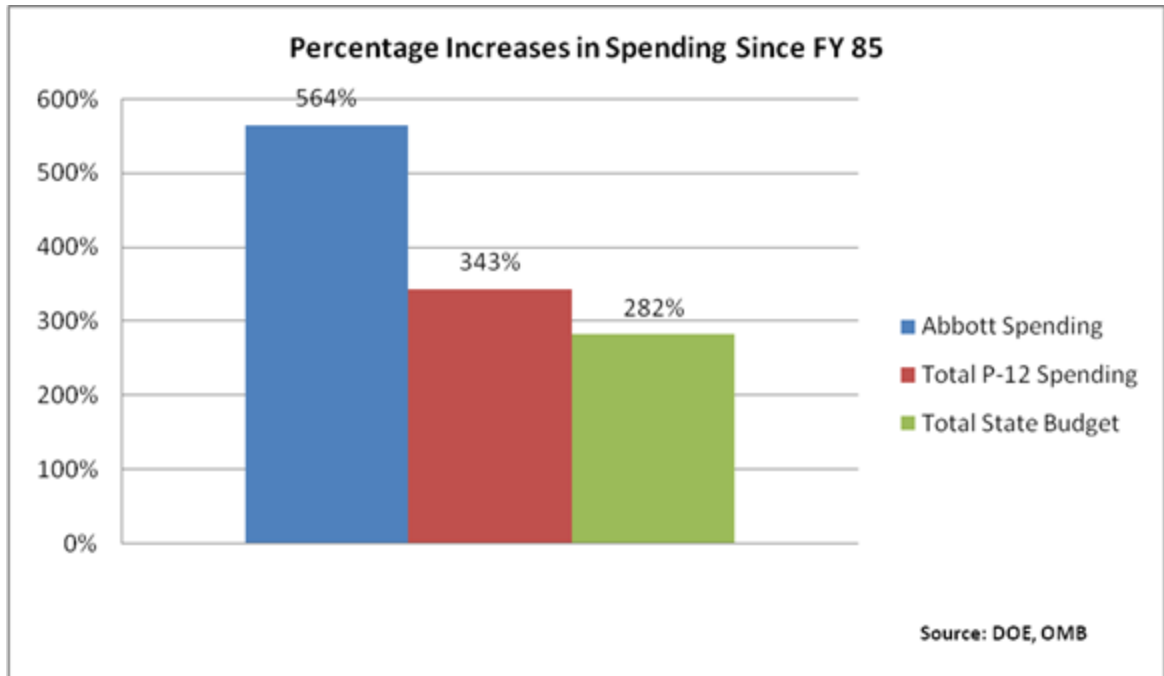


- **Today, Nearly 6 Of Every 10 State Dollars Spent On All PreK-12 Education Costs Goes To Just 31 Abbott Districts.**
  - Spending in Abbott Districts skyrocketed from \$685 Million in FY 1985 to \$4.5 Billion in FY 2012 – representing a 61% increase in the proportion of all PreK-12 spending devoted to Abbott Districts.
  - Meanwhile, the percentage of New Jersey’s population residing in the Abbott Districts actually dropped 3% over the same period.



**But Despite Consistently High Education Spending Focused In The 31 Abbott Districts, New Jersey's Achievement Gap Persists...**

- Education Spending In New Jersey Has Skyrocketed As A Proportion Of Total State Budget Expenditures, Increasing 564% In The Abbott Districts Since 1985. Yet, Those Billions Of Dollars In Resources Haven't Translated To Higher Student Achievement For Our Neediest Children.



- **The Gap In New Jersey 4th Grade Math Between At-Risk Students And Those Not At Risk Did Not Change Significantly In 13 Years.**

  - In 2009, students eligible for free/reduced-price lunch (indicator of poverty) had an average score 26 points lower than students not eligible for free/reduced-price lunch. The performance gap was not significantly different from that in 1996 (32 points). (National Assessment of Educational Progress, 2009)
- **The Gap In New Jersey 8th Grade Math Between Black Or Hispanic And White Students Did Not Change Significantly In 19 Years (More Than A Generation Of Students Or Nearly The Lifetime Of Abbott).**

  - In 2009, the average score of black students was 34 points lower than that of white students. The gap was not significantly different from 1990 (38 points).
  - In 2009, the average score of Hispanic students was 30 points lower than that of white students. The gap was not significantly different from 1990 (37 points).
  - The gap in New Jersey eighth grade math between at-risk students and those not at risk did not change significantly in six years.
  - In 2009, students eligible for free/reduced-price lunch (indicator of poverty) had an average score 30 points lower than students not eligible for free/reduced-price lunch. The performance gap was not significantly different from that in 2003 (34 points).
- **The Gap In New Jersey 4th Grade Reading Between At-Risk Students And Those Not At Risk Did Not Change Significantly In Six Years.**

  - In 2009, students eligible for free/reduced-price lunch (indicator of poverty) had an average score 26 points lower than students not eligible for free/reduced-price lunch. The performance gap was not significantly different from that in 2003 (30 points).

- **The Gap In New Jersey 8th Grade Reading Between Black Or Hispanic And White Students Did Not Change Significantly In Six Years. The Gap Between At-Risk Students And Those Not At Risk Also Did Not Change Significantly Over The Same Time Period.**

- In 2009, the average score of black students was 31 points lower than that of white students. The gap was not significantly different from 2003 (29 points).
- In 2009, the average score of Hispanic students was 25 points lower than that of white students. The gap was not significantly different from 2003 (28 points).
- In 2009, students eligible for free/reduced-price lunch (indicator of poverty) had an average score 27 points lower than students not eligible for free/reduced-price lunch. The performance gap was not significantly different from that in 2003 (30 points).

(Source: National Assessment of Educational Progress)